United Nations E/2016/NGO/61

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Sadguru Sadafaldeo Vihangam Yoga Sansthan, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08753 (E) 020616

Please recycle

Statement

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's): Monitoring the New Urban Agenda

United Nations SDGs Challenges

The Post 2015 Development Agenda has brought out the New Urban Agenda. The critical operational toolkit of the New Urban Agenda is the set of indicators to assess progress of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. The challenge is to measure and assess progress in the SDGs towards meeting the needs of people in both developed and developing countries.

For the first time, the United Nations has shifted its focus from countries and cities to sub-cities and specific target groups among them, such as relating to gender, age, and informal settlements, among others. Another innovative feature of this initiative is that the performance results have to go beyond comparative performance ranking to actually transferring the results to operations in areas of say, city planning, budgeting and programme management. This brings into focus major challenges of understanding, developing and analysing sub-city database, assessing whether such data are being generated and whether cities have the capacities to generate the data, analyse them and transfer the sub-city level performance results to city operations.

Available evidences on the database at the city level across countries are not encouraging. Sub-city data are normally not developed in both developed and developing countries. Nor does capacity appear to exist at the city level to generate such data at different levels of disaggregation, as indicated in the New Urban Agenda.

Proposal to develop New Urban Agenda Toolkit for SDGs

The development of a New Urban Agenda toolkit to assess progress of the SDGs will require the following major research tasks:

1. Assess the sub-city database in sample cities. Are the data being periodically or regularly generated and maintained and if so, the quality and reliability of the data and the extent to which the sub-city data are being analysed and transferred to city operations.

2. Develop a set of output and outcome indicators to assess progress of each of the 17 SDGs, as sustainability cannot be assessed only by output indicators

3. If the sub-city data are not being developed or the quality is not of the required level for the proposed set of SDG output and outcome indicators, assess capacity within the city government to develop these data.

4. If the capacity is not available, develop a capacity building module. This will have three components:

   a. Sub-city data development and validation techniques

   b. Sub-city level analytical techniques

   c. Performance Results Transfer to Practice Techniques

5. Develop the set of SDG output and outcome indicators at City, Sub city level by wards disaggregated for gender, age, income groups and many other housing related variables

6. A regional level Training of Trainers programme for 20 trainers from Asian and African cities in the first instance, which will use the training modules to organize similar training programmes within their regions.

7. Provide technical support to the regional trainers, as required